IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

    Alejandro Wiechers

Serial No.: 10/635,479

Filed: August 7, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2625

Examiner: Milia, Mark

Docket No. 200207440-1

For: **Design-To-Pack Enabled Packaging Device In A Commercial Printing Environment And Managing Workflow For Use With Same**

FIRST RESPONSE

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

The Office Action mailed June 13, 2007 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Please amend the present application as follows:

Specification

The following is a copy of Applicant's specification that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("——") or brackets ("[[ ]]"), as is applicable:

Pages 12 and 13, Paragraph [0044].

[0044] The PSP receives the high performance file from the designer location over the connection 122. This file is submitted to a PSP preflight module in step 124. This marks the traditional beginning of PSP prepress operations. These prepress operations, as discussed above, take much time and effort and diminish the efficiency of the PSP. Under the present invention, the prepress efforts at the PSP are minimized. While the print job has already been preflighted at the designer location, it is submitted to a PSP preflight to further ensure that the file is ready to print at the commercial printer.

Page 20, Paragraph [0074]

[0074] The DTF enabled device (finisher) communicates through the closed-loop with the devices and modules at the designer location and the devices and modules at the print service provider location in the same manner as described above with respect to the DTPress enabled device. It is tables will include actual installed features of the finishing device as well as its capabilities; for example, booklet making or perfect binding. Like the DTPress device, the DTF enabled device is assigned a unique ID so it can be uniquely identified and has a memory and communication module.

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("——") or brackets ("[[ ]]"), as is applicable:

1.   (Currently amended) A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

a digital printer establishing a closed-loop communication link between the designer location and the print service provider location;

the digital printer sending current configuration information stored within memory of the digital printer to the designer location via the closed-loop communication link;

creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device the current configuration information received from the print service provider location digital printer via said the closed-loop communication link;

submitting said the press ready file from the designer location to the print service provider location via said the closed-loop communication link; and

receiving at the print service provider location a printed output of said the press ready file from the digital printer; and

packaging said the printed output at the print service provider location using an automated packaging device.

2. (Currently amended) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the automated packaging device is a Design-to-Ship enabled packaging device ~~and~~ that also forms part of ~~said~~ the closed-loop communication link.

3. (Currently amended) A method of managing workflow according to claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ the automated packaging device is assigned a unique identifier.

4. (Currently amended) A method of managing workflow according to claim 2, ~~wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of~~ further comprising verifying[[,]] at ~~said~~ the print service provider location[[,]] that ~~said~~ the press ready file will be produced at ~~said~~ the print service provider location as ~~designed at the designer location~~ instructed by information contained in the press ready file and, if not, correcting ~~said~~ the press ready file to ensure production substantially as designed.

5-9. (Canceled)

10.   (Currently amended) An automated packaging device for use with a design-to-press workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location, a print service provider location, and a closed-loop communication link between them, said automated packaging device comprising:

a memory for storing ~~device~~ current configuration information about the automated packaging device; and

a communication module for connecting to ~~said~~ the closed-loop communication link to communicate ~~device~~ the current configuration information ~~with~~ to the designer location and the print service provider location for consideration in design and preflight stages of the workflow.

11.   (New) A system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment, said system comprising:

a digital printer comprising memory that stores current configuration information about the digital printer and a communications module that is used to communicate with other devices over a network, wherein the digital printer is configured to:

establish a closed-loop communication link with a designer location at which print jobs are created and with a print service provider location at which the print jobs are processed,

send the current configuration information stored within digital printer memory to the designer location via the closed-loop communication link, and

generate printed outputs associated with the print jobs; and

an automated packaging device comprising memory that stores current configuration information about the packaging device and a communications module that is used to communicate with other devices over a network, wherein the digital printer is configured to:

communicate over the closed-loop communication link with the designer location and with the print service provider location,

send the current configuration information stored within the packaging device memory to the designer location via the closed-loop communication link, and

package the printed outputs generated by the digital printer according to the instructions associated with the print job.

12.   (New) A system of managing workflow according to claim 11, wherein the automated packaging device is a Design-to-Ship enabled packaging device.

13.   (New) A system of managing workflow according to claim 12, wherein the automated packaging device is assigned a unique identifier.

14.   (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein the digital printer sending current configuration information comprises the digital printer sending a table containing the current configuration information to the designer location.

15.   (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 14, wherein creating a press ready file at the designer location comprises adjusting at the designer location a print job to match capabilities of the digital printer relative to the current configuration information for the printing device.

16.   (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 15, further comprising the designer location updating a job ticket associated with the print job.

17.   (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 16, further comprising a preflight module of the print service provider location receiving the press ready file, reading the updated job ticket, requesting from the digital printer the current configuration information via the closed-loop communication link, and determining whether or not the digital printer is capable of properly processing the print job by comparing information contained in the updated job ticket and the current configuration information of the digital printer.

18.   (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 17, further comprising the preflight module providing the print job and updated job ticket to the digital printer.

19.   (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 18, further comprising the digital printer reading the updated job ticket and verifying that the digital printer can process the print job according to instructions contained in the updated job ticket.

20.   (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 19, further comprising the digital printer providing updates as to printing status to the designer location and the print service provider location via the closed-loop communication link.

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed June 16, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I.   Double Patenting Rejections - Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable in view of claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/630,878 ("the '878 application").

As indicated above, remaining independent claim 1 has been amended through this Response. In view of that amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10 of the '878 application do not render claim 1 and its dependents unpatentable. Applicant therefore requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

II.   Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 5-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being drawn to non-statutory subject matter.

In response to the rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 5-8. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

III.   Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kemp, et al.* ("Kemp," U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0078160).

As indicated above, remaining independent claim 1 has been amended through this Response. In view of that amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot as having been drawn against Applicant's claims in a previous form. Applicant therefore requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Turning to the merits of claim 1, Applicant notes that Kemp at least does not disclose "a digital printer establishing a closed-loop communication link between the designer location and the print service provider location", "the digital printer sending current configuration information stored within memory of the digital printer to the designer location via the closed-loop communication link", or "creating a press ready file at the designer location using the current configuration information received from the digital printer via the closed-loop communication link". Specifically, Kemp is silent as to a digital printer providing configuration information stored within its memory to a designer location, thereby enabling the designer location to create the press ready file accordingly.

IV. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kemp*.

As identified above, Kemp does not teach aspects of Applicant's claim 1. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that remaining dependant claim 3 is allowable over the Kemp for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable over Kemp.

V. Canceled Claims

Claims 5-9 have been canceled from the application without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.
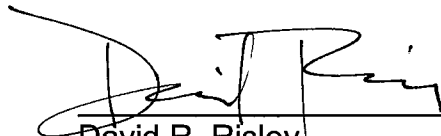
VI. New Claims

Claims 11-20 have been added into the application through this Response. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims describe an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Risley
Registration No. 39,345